

LIVE QUESTIONS.

A Series of Articles Contributed by
Advanced Thinkers.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF PROFIT SHARING.

BY N. O. NELSON.

Three years ago Emile Levasseur of Paris, the eminent professor, economist and writer on economic subjects, visited Leclaire. He made a general tour of the United States especially with a view to investigating the conditions of the American workmen. He has written much on the subject since his return to Paris. In a paper published in The Yale Review for August, on the "Standard of Living of American Workmen," he arrives at the conclusion that the average rate of wages in this country is about double the French rate. The cost of food is about two-thirds, of clothing about equal, and of rent considerably higher, with more and better room. He finds the American standard of living much higher and also more wasteful. He overlooks two important factors—while the American rate of wages is much higher, employment is far more unsteady and the number of unemployed very much greater. If the comparison was made between the average income year in and year out of the entire number of workers in France and the United States, the difference between the two would be greatly reduced. He also falls into the error of taking his basis from the wages of the highly paid mechanical trades. His average of \$2.07 per day cannot include the total of shoe workers, clothing makers, laborers and the great mass of manufacturing in which wages are not held up by unions.

One of the most interesting side shows of the English co-operative movement is the annual flower festival. It started 10 or 13 years ago at Crystal Palace, in the outskirts of London. It has grown year by year until now it is made the occasion for a grand gathering of co-operators from all over the British island. The attendance numbers hundreds of thousands. The English climate is especially adapted to the cultivation of flowers, being moist and of much more even temperature than that of the United States. Splendid beds of flowers in front yards and pot flowers in the windows are almost universally found in cities of moderate size and villages. The display of flowers at the festival is something wonderful. Then there is music, including a chorus of more than 5,000 voices. The festival lasts several days. Speeches are made by eminent men and by prominent co-operative leaders. The great success of this central festival has encouraged the provinces, and now the Scottish co-operators have theirs, and also the various subdistricts of England and Scotland.

The United States census bureau has tabulated recorded debts of all sorts in the United States. The bonded debt of railroads, street railroads, telephone companies, telegraph companies, private water companies, gas companies, electric light and power companies and other transportation companies amounts to \$6,300,000,000. The mortgages on farms amount to \$2,309,000,000 and on city property to \$3,810,000,000. The United States, state, county, city and school debts amount to \$2,321,000,000, loans on crop liens \$650,000,000, bank loans \$3,077,000,000. A reasonable estimate of bank deposits, mercantile debts, retail store accounts and other personal debts would carry the total debts of the United States, public and private, to probably \$30,000,000,000, or an average of \$2,140 to each household of five persons. It is easy to see from these figures how panics and depressions arise, and the question is naturally raised whether credit is a blessing or a curse.

The St. Louis co-operative store is showing a steady and healthy growth in membership and in sales. Within the past 13 months the sales have doubled. A regular dividend of 6 per cent on members' purchases and 3 per cent on nonmembers' is paid. An excellently equipped bakery has just been acquired. The managers and workers are all co-operators and will share in the loss, if there be any, and in the profits when it gets on a profit making basis. The various breads made will be of a strictly pure and honest sort. The loaves are wrapped in specially prepared paper to keep them clean and fresh. The manager of the bakery, Mr. Joseph Parvin, is a thoroughgoing co-operator in practice and theory. He has been a co-operative business manager, and has written much on the subject.

The Oldham Co-operative society of England has recently celebrated the opening of a new bakery, a new slaughter house and other buildings. Each of these plants is extensive and fitted up in the most complete manner with modern appliances. The bakery building includes 17 stalls for the teams. The society has 11,333 members. Its sales last year amounted to \$1,320,000, yielding a net profit after paying interest on capital of \$218,000. It paid out in dividends to purchasers \$193,500. Oldham is situated near Rochdale, the birthplace of modern co-operation. The business of these two manufacturing cities is largely done by the co-operators.

The Leclaire (Ills.) library contains a large collection of well selected books adapted to all classes of readers, learned and unlearned, old and young, farmers and city residents. They will be gladly lent to any one who will read them. Individual applicants will be supplied at any time of day or evening by applying either at the library or to the librarian, Miss Thomas, at residence adjoining the library. To school districts or reading clubs or literary associations in the country boxes containing two dozen assorted books will be cheerfully supplied and may be retained as long as wanted and then exchanged for others.

The nineteenth quarterly balance

sheet of the Hudsonfield (England) co-operative store, shows sales for the quarter of \$430,000, being an increase of \$58,500 over the corresponding period of last year. The association has 10,503 members and \$871,000 capital. Its net profits after paying all expenses, interest on capital and depreciation on fixed property was \$61,385. A dividend of 15 per cent was returned to purchasers. The society has a large number of branches, a library and reading room and carries on a farm, tailoring shop and other branches of manufacture.

If the farmers in every township would organize a co-operative association, hold regular meetings, arrange for buying their machinery and groceries jointly, selling their products jointly, starting a creamery, and in the course of time a cannery, a mill, a blacksmith's shop and a library, they could in a few years greatly improve their finances and also their social surroundings. This is no idle theory, but is vouched for by what farmers' associations have done for them in different parts of the world.

The co-operative associations in the United States are scattered over so wide an area and are so far apart that most of them are unknown to each other. We shall esteem it a service to co-operation, and a favor to ourselves, if all readers of the news in the United States will send us the address of co-operative societies of which they have knowledge.

The Leclaire (Ills.) co-operative store pays regularly 10 per cent dividends on members' purchases. Members may join by taking one \$50 share of stock, payable in installments of 50 cents a week or more. It is open to all.

HOW TO START CO-OPERATION.

First write to some authority for printed matter in order that you may thoroughly inform yourself. Then talk it up to neighbors and friends. Hold some small meetings; read aloud together and discuss the points; talk about it from a business point of view and on its moral side; get a nucleus fully imbued with its importance. When you have as many as 25 who are willing to try it, start a subscription list for membership at \$25 or \$50 each, payable in small installments such as all can afford. Organize in a provisional way with a committee in charge. Do not spend any money on legal organization before you get fully started and know that you are going ahead. Co-operation is a voluntary matter and only slight legal forms are necessary. When you have enough money to buy two or three items of plain groceries in wholesale packages, buy them and distribute them at the ordinary retail prices in some spare room of one of the members. You have incurred no expense, and when this distribution has taken place you will find in your possession 15 or 20 per cent more money than you laid out. You can then buy a larger variety and you have some money coming in all the time from weekly installments. When the membership and business have grown sufficiently to justify hiring a store-room, then select an inexpensive place and keep it open evenings. In the course of time it may be kept open afternoons twice a week; later on two, three and finally six full days a week.

This is a very small way of starting, but it is the surest way, and it is about the way in which most of the co-operative societies which now do a business of millions a year were started. Under no circumstances either buy or sell on credit; under no circumstances incur expenses that will consume the gross profit or the greater part of it. Always lay the chief stress on the moral ideal of co-operation.

FOILED.

Senator Wilson of Washington and his brother, Harry Wilson, look very much alike. One day in Spokane, where the two brothers live, Senator Wilson, who had just returned from his legislative duties, was stopped on the street by a man who had known him for years. "Harry," said the man, "when will your brother John be here?" "In a day or two," said John without a smile. "Tell him I want to see him on an important matter." "Certainly," said John. "And you will not forget it?" "I'll try not," promised John, and thus another office seeker was foiled.—Washington Post.

The wheat fly is said to have been nearly as destructive to the wheat crops of this country as the Hessian fly.

SPECIFIC
FOR SCROFULA.

"Since childhood, I have been afflicted with scrofulous boils and sores, which caused me terrible suffering. Physicians were unable to help me, and I only grew worse under their care. At length, I began to take



AYER'S

Sarsaparilla, and very soon grew better. After using half a dozen bottles I was completely cured, so that I have not had a boil or pimple on any part of my body for the last twelve years. I can cordially recommend Ayer's Sarsaparilla as the very best blood-purifier in existence."—G. T. REINHART, Myersville, Texas.

AYER'S
THE ONLY WORLD'S FAIR
Sarsaparilla
Ayer's Cherry Pectoral cures Coughs and Colds

GROVES

TASTELESS
CHILL
TONICIS JUST AS GOOD FOR ADULTS.
WARRANTED. PRICE 50 cts.

GALATIA, ILLS., Nov. 16, 1893.
Paris Medicine Co., St. Louis, Mo.
Gentlemen:—We sold last year, 600 bottles of GROVES' TASTELESS CHILL TONIC and have bought three gross already this year. In all our experience of 14 years, in the drug business, have never sold an article that gave such universal satisfaction as your Tonic. Yours truly,
ABNEY, CARR & CO.
SOLD—No Cure, No Pay, by A. J. China
J. F. W. DeLorme, J. S. Hughes & Co.

LODGE DIRECTORY.

Claremont Lodge, No. 64, A. F. M.

Meets Thursday nights; of each month, on or before the Full Moon.

L. S. CARSON, W. M.

H. C. MOSES, Secretary.

Ben'ah Chapter, No. 25, R. A. M.

Meets on First Tuesday of each month.

L. S. CARSON, High Priest.

F. M. SPANK, Secretary.

Gamecock Lodge, No. 17, K. of P.

Meets every Monday night at 8 o'clock, except fifth Monday night.

H. B. BLOOM, C. C.

R. WALSH, K. of R. & S.

Sumter Lodge, No. 1077, K. of H.

Meets every First and Third Monday nights at 7 o'clock.

W. J. DURANT, Dio.

H. C. MOSES, Rep'r.

Fidelity Lodge, No. 251, K. & L. of H.

Meets every Second and Fourth Monday nights at 7 o'clock.

J. S. HUGHSON, Protector

B. J. RHAME, Secretary.

Sumter Council, No. 649, A. L. of H.

Meets every Second and Fourth Tuesday nights at 7 o'clock.

W. F. RHAME, Com.

J. N. CORBETT, Sec'y.

Sumter Lodge, No. 1, A. O. U. W.

Meets every First and Third Thursday nights at 7 o'clock.

H. C. MOSES, M. W.

B. WALSH, Rec.

Pocahontas Tribe, No. 16, I. O. R. M.

Meets every Friday's Sleep at the 3rd Run.

R. O. PURDY, Sachem.

B. C. WALLACE, C. of R.

Sumter Council, No. 7 Jr. O. U. A. M.

Meets on Second and Fourth Tuesday nights of each month at 8 o'clock.

WM YEADON, Councillor.

B. C. WALLACE, Sec'y.

Holly-Wood Camp, W. of W.

Meets every Third Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.

E. W. HURST, Con. Com.

R. S. HOOD, Clerk.

Carolina Council, No. 515, C. B. L.

Meets every Second and Fourth Wednesday in Monaghan Block.

NEIL O'DONNELL, Pres.

A. H. EBERHART, Sec.

Chucuala Lodge, No. 261, O. G. C.

Meets Second and Fourth Wednesday nights at 8 o'clock.

G. N. MARSHALL, Com.

B. C. WALLACE, Sec'y.

All of the above societies hold their meetings at the Masonic Temple, except when otherwise specified.

Garden
Seeds.Buist's and Ferry's
just received.

All kinds. Most Reliable.

Onion Sets.

Red and White.

DRUGS!

—Toilet Soaps—

Frostilla for Chapped
Hands!Fresh Drugs Every
Week.Prescriptions Carefully Com-
pounded Day and Night.

**J. S. HUGHSON
& CO.,**
DRUGGISTS
MONAGHAN BLOCK
SUMTER, S. C.

Order Your
PROVISIONS AND GROCERIES
FROM

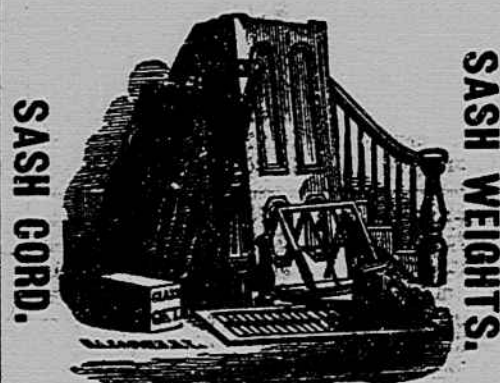
GEO. W. STEFFENS & SON,
Wholesale Agents, Charleston, S. C.

—Agents for—

MOTT'S CIDER
RED SEAL CIGARS,
AND DOVE HAMS

The Largest and Most Complete
Establishment South

Geo. S. Hacker & Son,



—MANUFACTURERS OF—
DOORS, SASH, BLINDS,
Moulding & Building
Material.

Office and Warerooms, King, opposite Can-
non Street,
CHARLESTON, S. C.

Purchase our make, which we guarantee
superior to any sold South, and
thereby save money.

Window and Fancy Glass a Specialty
October 16—0

To You

Who Use

**PENS, INK,
Paper, Blank Books:**

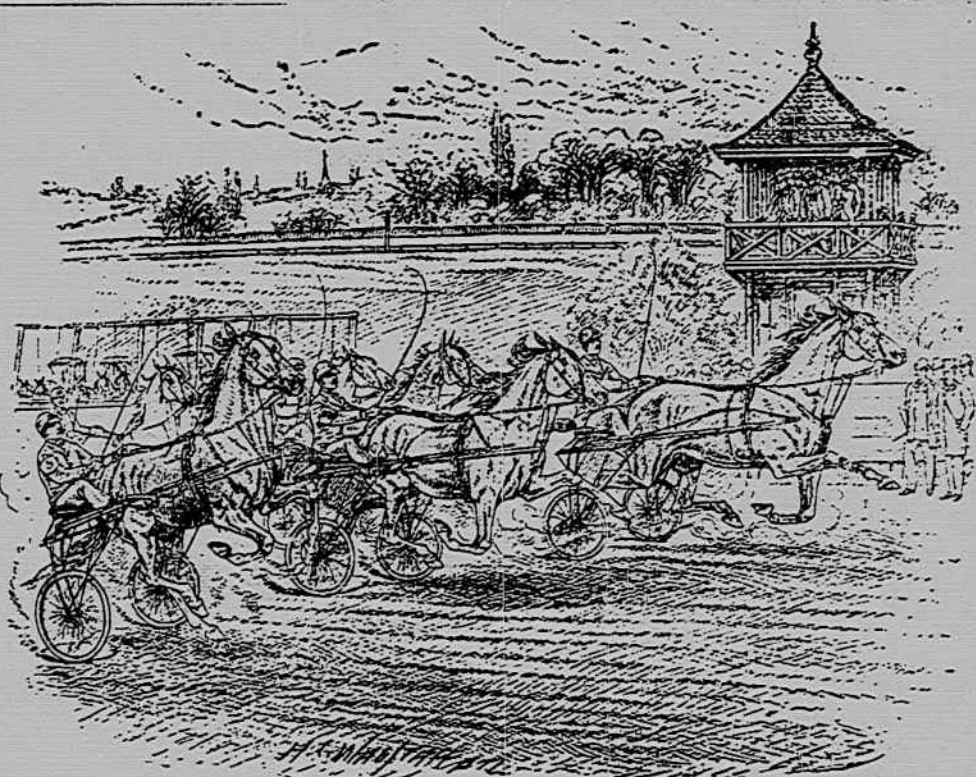
At H. G. OSTERN & CO'S

You can get everything that you
want at the lowest prices. We are so
situated that we can afford to make
prices closer than any one else.

All Goods are new and of
the best quality. No shop-
worn goods.

We make a specialty of School
Supplies and also keep a full line of
Stationery, Blanks, Books, Etc.
Come and inspect our goods.

H. G. OSTERN & CO.,
LIBERTY STREET,
SUMTER, S. C.



FOR THE JANUARY TRADE.

I Will be Well Prepared to
Meet the Demands of the
January Trade.

Just Received.

One car load of fine Mules.
One car load of 1-horse Wagons.

To Arrive This Week.

Two car loads extra choice work
horses.

H. Harby.

Sumter, S. C., Dec. 28, 1896

The Gunning! Gunning! Gunning!

STRICTLY HIGH GRADE.

The Best is the Cheapest.

There is none better
than the

GUNNING

Finest in Finish.
Best in quality of material and work-
manship.
Style unequalled.
Tool Steel Bearings.
Seamless Steel Tubing.
Perfect in every detail.

We are "GUNNING" for you.

Send for Catalogue.

Elgin Sewing Machine & Bicycle Co.
ELGIN, ILLINOIS.

THE COLUMBIAN CYCLOPEDIA.

35 Volumes 7,500 Illustrations 28,600 Pages,
Complete and Up to Date.

The largest American Cyclopaedia.
Pronounces all Titles.
Volumes of Handy Size.
Furnishes the Largest and Latest Maps.

Includes an Unabridged Dictionary.
Information Right Down to Date.
You can keep up to the times by adding
an Annual each year.

No other Cyclopaedia even pretends to claim these features, but don't you think they are
pretty important? Send us your name and let us show you in detail the various points of
superiority possessed by THE COLUMBIAN. It covers the whole range of knowledge; is
prepared by the most able and experienced editors and cyclopaedia writers, and is commended
by the best judges throughout the country.

The Best Family Library.

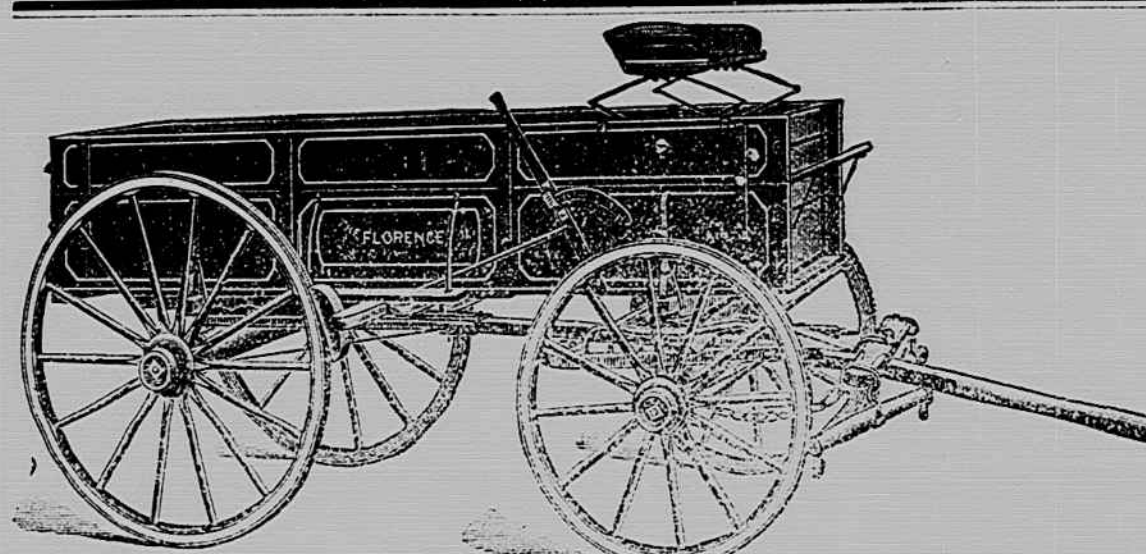
Because it is clear and simple in language, free from technicalities, non
partisan and non sectarian, and above all Neither "British" nor Sectional
but

Thoroughly American.

A work of reference which is foreign or narrowly sectional has no place in an American
Home. Sold on easy terms of payment.

Garretson, Cox & Co., Publishers.
BUFFALO, N. Y.

For full descriptive circulars and } The Columbian Book Co., { 81 Whitehall St.
terms send to our Southern agents } Atlanta Ga.

I have got the wagon you
want and

My Prices are Right.

I represent some of the best
wagon manufacturers in the
United States and

Can Compete With any
dealer

In the South in price and
quality. Call and examine
my stock for yourself and be
your own judge. Talk is
cheap and so are wagons now.

GEO. F. EPPERSON.